

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. In a client-server system including one or more client devices each associated with a unique client identifier and having a client template database for storing one or more templates defining a configuration of the client device, and a server having a server template database, a method of automatically reconfiguring the client device, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving a client request including a template identifier from a client device;
- b. retrieving a template corresponding to said template identifier from the server template database;
- c. determining whether the client device requires a template update using said template identifier and said retrieved template; and
- d. sending a server response including template update information when the client device requires said template update as determined at the step [c] of determining whether the client device requires a template update.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said retrieved template and said client template each include at least one template definition for configuring the client device, and wherein the step [c] of determining whether the client device requires a template update using said template identifier and said retrieved template further includes the step of:

sending a server response to the client device including a template definition of said retrieved template when the client device requires said template update.



5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step [c] of determining whether the client device requires a template update using said template identifier and said retrieved template and comprises the steps of:

detecting a predetermined command in said client request indicating an absence of a template corresponding to said template identifier at the client device; and

sending said retrieved template to said client device when said predetermined command is detected.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein [step a.] the step of receiving a client request comprises the step of:

including a command in said client request indicating an absence of a template corresponding to said template identifier.